Core and a Religion Major

Core classes are conducted as seminars capped at 16 students, led by full-time faculty. Students form a close relation with faculty and other students in class and in optional extra-curricular activities, while developing the skills needed for success in upper-level seminars in their later course of study.

Core’s comparative framework gives depth and resonance to the various particular specializations students pursue within the Religion major.

Core Humanities contrasts early Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman religion to the tradition of the Hebrew Bible, the Gospels, and the emergence of Protestantism, all in the broader context of the art, literature, philosophy and music of the Western world, from the epic of Gilgamesh to 20th century Europe and America. Core also explores the very different traditions of Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism and Buddhism, providing an important perspective from which to view the literary and cultural traditions of the West.

In the first part of the Core Social Sciences sequence, CC 112, students study ancient and modern works, from Herodotus to Durkheim and William James, on the essential interrelation of religion and culture. Then, in CC 211, students look at foundational works on the political and economic bases of society, by such author as Ibn Khaldun, Tocqueville, Weber and Marx.

Finally, Core Natural Science studies not only the natural world and our relation to it, but also how human beings’ relation to nature is interconnected with human culture.

Students generally take CC 101 and CC 102 in their first year; however, as long as the Core Humanities courses are taken in order, Core classes can be taken at any time during your BU career. Students who complete Core have “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences” recorded on their official Boston University transcript. Students who complete the Core Curriculum with a grade of at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule

Students who take all of Core fulfill all Hub and Writing requirements. And since Core satisfies Hub general education requirements, there is plenty of room to complete or customize the program to work neatly alongside your major. For example:

- CC 101 gives Hub credit for Aesthetic Exploration, Global Citizenship, and Creativity / Innovation.
- CC 102 gives WR 120 credit and credit for Oral / Signed Communication.
- CC 111 and 212 give Hub credit for Scientific Inquiry I and II and Quantitative Reasoning I and II, as well as for Teamwork / Collaboration and Critical Thinking.
- CC 112 and 211 give Hub credit for Social Inquiry I and II as well as Global Citizenship, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking and a Writing intensive course.
- For Religion majors, CC 101 and 102 together count for one 100-level Religion class.

For students pursuing a double major, Core classes can be a valuable asset. Find our factsheet about equivalencies at www.bu.edu/core/about/factsheets to learn how Core courses count toward credit in particular majors.

For more information contact Prof. Nelson at nelson@bu.edu / 617-353-5404 or Chris McMullen in the Advising Office: cmcmull@bu.edu / 617-353-2400.

Whenever you’re on campus, please feel free to stop by the Core Office for a visit. We’re in CAS 119, 685 Commonwealth Ave, by the Tsai Auditorium, near the GSU.